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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/714,997 | 11/20/2000 | Robert C. Ross, Jr. | 36956-168147 | 6701 |

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EXAMINER

NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/714,997 | Applicant(s) ROSS, JR., ROBERT C. | |
| | Examiner George C. Neurauter, Jr. | Art Unit 2143 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-14 are currently pending and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 8 and 9 of the response filed 24 November 2004, with regards to Keyworth have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-8 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed 24 November 2004 with regards to "Microsoft Office 97" have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that "Microsoft Office 97" does not teach storing outgoing messages in folders. The Examiner does not agree. "Microsoft Office 97" discloses this limitation (page 733, specifically the text "If you are not on the network, the message will be placed in the 'Outbox' folder until a connection can be made").

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1 and 5 recite a display that displays the status of multiple email user accounts concurrently on a single shared computer which executes a multi-user email system, which, in

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addition to the rest of the claim limitations, are distinguished from the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Special Edition Using Microsoft Office 97 Professional, Best Sellers Edition" ("Microsoft Office").

Regarding claim 9, "Microsoft Office" discloses an electronic mail system comprising:

a user-assignable personal file folder that store selected incoming and outgoing messages. (page 780, specifically "subfolder")

Regarding claim 10, "Microsoft Office" discloses the system according to claim 9, wherein emails sent from at least one of a sender and a recipient automatically stored in one or more of said user-assignable personal file folders. (page 780, specifically "Sent Items"; see also 804, specifically the text "There is an Inbox Assistant, which can automatically process

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messages as they arrive...An event is typically the delivery of a message to the Inbox...Typical actions include moving the message to a special folder...")

Regarding claim 11, "Microsoft Outlook" discloses the system according to claim 10, wherein said user assignable file folders are automatically tagged by the email address of a sender of a received email and a receiver of a sent email. (page 780, specifically "Sent Items"; see also 804, specifically the text "There is an Inbox Assistant, which can automatically process messages as they arrive...An event is typically the delivery of a message to the Inbox...Typical actions include moving the message to a special folder...")

Regarding claim 12, "Microsoft Outlook" discloses the system according to claim 9, wherein each of said user-assignable personal file folders comprises a dynamic, active read receipt report stored on a system of a sender of an email (page 808, "Using Receipts", particularly "Tell me when this message has been read").

Regarding claim 13, "Microsoft Outlook" discloses the system according to claim 12, wherein said dynamic, active read receipt report comprises a single file indicating read receipt status indicating which of a plurality of recipients of an email have and have not accessed said email (page 808, "Using

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Receipts", particularly "Tell me when this message has been read").

Regarding claim 14, "Microsoft Outlook" discloses the system according to claim 13, further comprising tracking a date and time of access by one of said plurality of recipients (page 731, specifically the text "Incoming messages are delivered to your "Inbox", which is shown in Figure 36.3 [Examiner's note: see page 732]. They are listed in a table which indicates...when it was received..."; page 808, specifically the text "Receipts are delivered to the Inbox just like regular email...")

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following prior art teaches personal file folders:

Borland, Russell. "Running Microsoft Mail for Windows", Version 3.0, Microsoft Press, 1993, pages 2, 6, 41-43, 81, and 110-113;

Nelson, Stephen L. "Microsoft Outlook 98 At a Glance", Microsoft Press, 1997, pages 13, 24, 48, 50, and 198.

The following prior art teaches concurrent displaying of data:

US Patent 6 313 880 to Smyers et al;

US Patent 6 510 452 to Brisebois et al.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gcn



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